HELL GIRL

地獄少女

3

Miyuki Eto

Original story by
The Jigoku Shoujo
Project

デルレイ

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Ballantine Books

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Hell Girl

3

Miyuki Eto

Created by The Jigoku Shoujo Project

Translated and adapted by Gemma Collinge
Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

DEL REY

Ballantine Books · New York

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Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/
Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

地獄少女

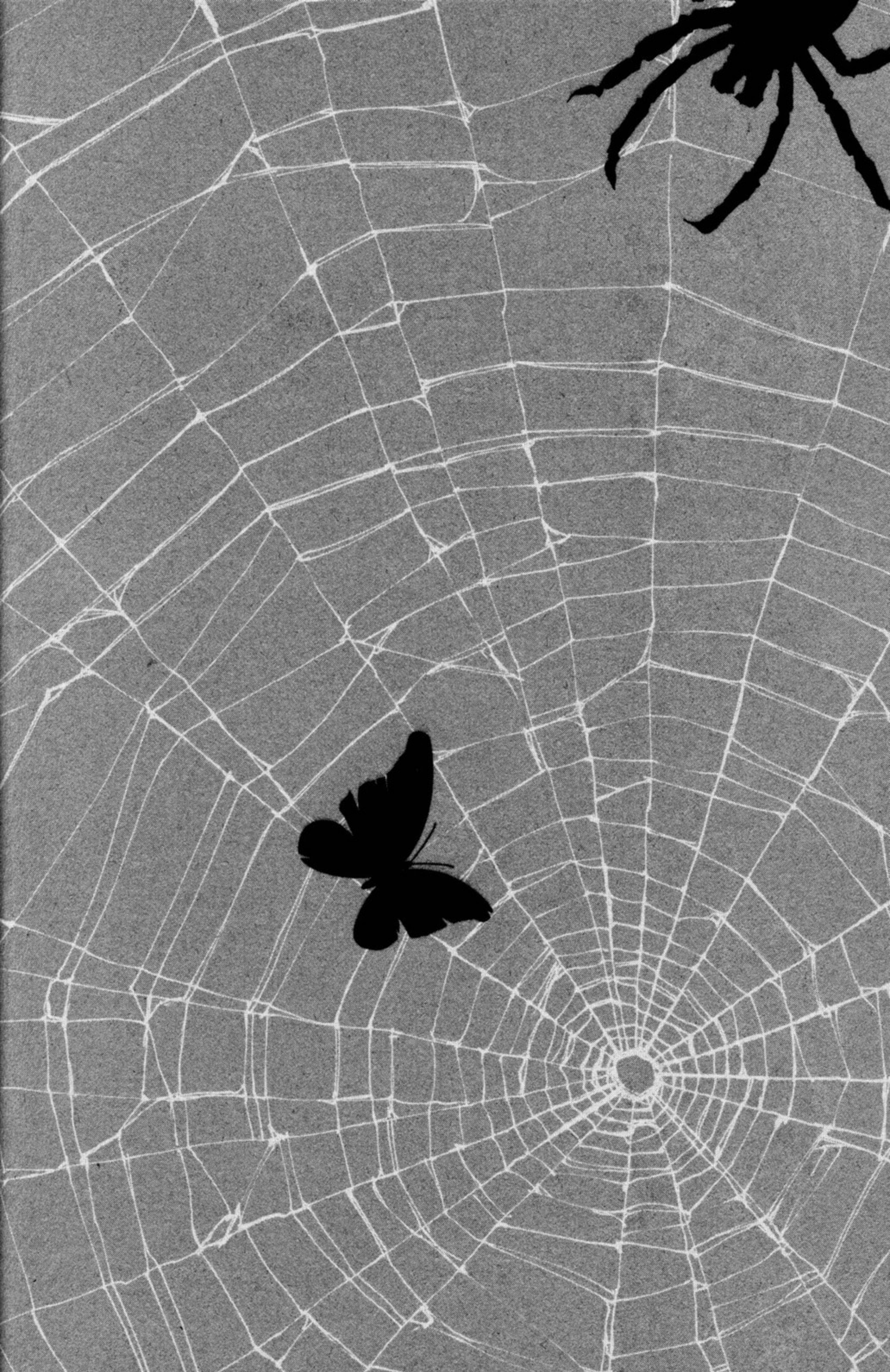
じごくしょうじょ

3

Hell Girl

Miyuki Eto

Created by
The Jigoku Shoujo Project



Chapter Eleven: A Gloomy Job

Greetings!

Thank you so much for buying volume 3 of *Hell Girl*. The day after this collection was released in Japan (October 7), so was the second season of the anime, so I'm really happy! With each story there are more new characters, and the Sanwara will end up playing a bigger role.

I hope that you keep enjoying *Hell Girl*.

Miyuki Eto

Eh?!

What are you going to do, Mayu?

You promised that you'd come to the beach in August!

Uh oh.

I've already invited some guys!

1000 1,000 yen*

1000 1,000 yen*

*Approx $8

No way...

All the money together is just 2,300 yen*...

Approx $20

Aaah...

I'll just have to earn it myself.

Part-Time Jobs

ARPAX

Popular!
Short Summer Term
This Summer
Resort Jobs Special
Learn
page

Price 100 yen

I already got an advance on my allowance. They won't give me any more.

What am I going to do...?

HAH...

Approx $1

SUMMER JOBS SPECIA

THEME PARK
CAMPAI
STAFF
SALA
Tel

I'm looking forward to working with you for the next five days.

I'm Mayu Fujii.

And my boss is hot!

I'm Nakatani, your supervisor.

I lied and said I was in high school...I can earn 30,000 yen in five days! This is gonna be easy!

Lucky Me!

You have to change into this.

Changing rooms are there.

If there's anything you don't understand, just ask.

I'm looking forward to working with you.

Are you the new girl, Fujii-san?

Nice to meet you! I'm Nozomi Aida.

Wow, Aida-san is cute!

I have to be careful they don't find out my real age.

You're so tall! I'm so jealous!

You're sixteen like me, right?

Not really!

WOW!

CONFUSED

Ah! I'm so nervous!

Do I just hand them out?!

Mayu-chan.

Just smile.

Just do as I do.

You don't have to be nervous.

Oh...

Okay.

I'm glad... Nozomi-chan is so sweet.

I think it's gonna be okay.

What is it?!

Oh... that's famous for being really scary.

The haunted house here.

AAAAAH!

?!

HELL'S INFERNO

Hell's Inferno...

You ride around in a boiling pot going through all the different hells... but there've been some scary rumors.

Apparently some people went missing in the lake of blood.

They also say that, a long time ago, a carnie fell in the lake of blood, so now it's haunted by a real ghost!

Eek....!!!

Lunchtime.

Hey.

What's your high school like?

キャー NGH

Ready for lunch?

I'M too scared!

I live with my big sister so I can go to school here, in Tokyo.

I pay for tuition myself, though, so that uses up my whole paycheck.

Just normal.

Co-ed school...

DRIP DRIP DRIP

UMMM...

I go to beauty school.

Wh- what about you?!

She's only two years older than me...but she's amazing.

RUMMAGE RUMMAGE

Changing Room

Hmmmph

That new girl is going to be sorry.

Ai-chan's first roller-coaster ride.

WHOOSH
バッ

HMMMPH.

HEH
ニヤ

I'M OFF.

ICK
ヒヤ

↑ Sick

Can't wait to work with you tomorrow!

See you tomor-row.

...Huh?

Nozomi-chan and I are getting on really well.

I'm glad I chose this job.

An older boyfriend!

She's so lucky...

Nozomi-chan...is dating Nakatani-san.

Waah! ♡

Changing Room

Hehe

The ribbon is so cute, too! ♡

You're so smart.

My hair is so curly!

キーレ

YAY!

Okay, I'll tell you.

Come over to my house.

Okay!

Oh, I saw you yesterday! Are you dating Nakatani-san?

ふふ

Huh!

Really? ♡

No, I'M not!

Nozomi-chan is taking the day off?

Oh...

She was looking fine yesterday though...I hope she's okay.

Why don't we go for lunch after work?

Ah, Mayu-chan.

Yeah.

She's not feeling well.

Girlfriend?

Shouldn't you be visiting your girlfriend?!

Ummm, I can't!

HUH?!

It doesn't really matter then.

Huh? What? ...That's it.

Are you feeling sick too?

No... I'm fine.

That's not how it is.

But...

You're dating Nozomi-chan.

Chat

Ah!

Wow!

DADUM

DADUM

That's because I'M in Middle school?

Is this your first time doing this?

I'M sorry, this is sort of expensive...

Don't worry about it.

Yes.

I don't suppose you'd like to date me when the job's over?

This is more than I'd ever hoped for!

Mayu-chan, thank you for working so hard.

I was so happy that such a pretty girl came to work here.

ドキドキ

AAAAHHHH!

She hasn't replied to my messages either. She must be really sick.

HELL'S INFERNO

It's really popular again today.

WAAAH! SCARY!

ヤーン

コワイ

Nozomi-chan isn't here today.

HEL
INFE

Oh, that...

That's scary.

You'll be sent to hell, too...

That story is pretty scary.

But the Hell Girl is scarier.

It wasn't that bad.

That lake of blood where someone died!

It was super scary!

Hell Girl... They're talking about that Hell Correspondence Site...

Nozomi-chan is feeling better.

...but she could have said something.

She just came to pick up her wages.

Apparently she found a new part-time job.

Huh?

Nozomi-chan quit?!

I still have her ribbons.

I guess she won't mind if I visit her then?

She said I should go to her house.

That was three days ago.

ドクン!!

DADUM

Isn't this a bit strange?

Yeah...

It's the summer holiday. I got an e-mail saying that she was at a friend's.

Nozomi-chan... hasn't come home?!

Nozomi-chan... I should ask about her...

Sorry to make you work overtime.

I'll give you your check now.

Thanks for these five days of work.

Office

Oh... sure.

Oh... Ummm...

Huh...?

Salary
Mayu Fujii

My friend has a shop.

Actually, I'm busy all of August.

Ummm...

Oh, before that.

I don't suppose you're interested in a better paying job?

RING RING

BEEP ピッ

CLICK カチ

I just have to get this.

What am I going to do... This is a problem.

パタン… SLAM

If I turn it down, then I feel like he's not going to pay me at all.

DUMPH

I need a good excuse!

ANGST

But if I work any more than this I'll have to lie to my parents.

I'm bringing another one.

Has that girl I introduced been working out okay?

Oh, I see.

CRASH

Oh!

Nakatani-san's bag!

OOPS!

Huh...?

Salary
Nozomi Aida

This is...

Sorry.

I made you wait...

Nakatani-san!

You said that Nozomi-chan had picked up her check.

Why do you still have this?

You've been lying too.

Were you lying to me?!

Mayu Fujii, Middle School, Second Year.

Give it back!

I can't.

If you want it back, you have to listen to me.

#!!

GRAB

!!

How did he get my student ID?!

You want money, don't you?

There are lots of girls like you.

Look.

Nozomi-chan was more than happy to work.

Huh...

She's been too busy to even go home.

ｚ!

Something scary happens to selfish little girls.

ズ

DRAG

ズ

DRAG

HELL'S INFERNO

No...

Let me go! Where are you taking me?

Wha...

What is it?

SHUFFLE

ｻｻｻ

You forced her...

She didn't want to, did she?!

What? There's lots of work to go around.

AAAAHHHHH!

BANG

Oh dear.

You've fallen into Hell's lake of blood.

You can't do this... I'm going to tell the police!

PAIN

10,000 yen*

Stupid girl.

AHAHAHA

10,000 yen*

10,000 yen*

10,000 yen*

10,000 yen*

*Approx $85

HEH

A Middle school girl who lied about her age to get a job.

And then, while stealing money, she has an accident...

You do that.

Salary

Nozomi Aida

Dead body?!

What...

What do you mean?

Even if they find your dead body...

Your soul will be sucked in...you must have heard?

DRAG

Any-way...

You must have heard the stories about the lake of blood.

DRAG

Bye bye.

NOOOOOOOOO!

BANG

Stop...

Stop it!

DRAG

DRAG

No way...

It's not fair.

ヒナ…ン DRIP

I'll never forgive him.

Someone has to...

She had a dream, and she worked so hard...

CLENCH

キリ

He pretended to be nice to get to know us.

He MUST have forced Nozomi-chan like this too.

"Do you know about 'Hell Correspondence'?"

And the Hell Girl will take vengeance for you.

You put in the name of someone you hate.

地獄通信

HELL CORRESPONDENCE

Please send Nakatani to hell.

You called me?

You're...

SHUFFLE

HELL'S INFERNO

I fiddled with the time cards...

So if she goes missing no one will suspect me.

Why is the opening...?!

Huh?

BANG

Who's there?

Before you receive your judgment...This mirror shows all the crimes you committed in your life.

Is there anything you want to know about hell?

Huh?!

Welcome to hell.

Deceit, theft, violence...

You've been pretty bad.

Oh...We know all about liars.

How do you know this?

Wh...

TUG

In hell...

TUG

Ngh.

Ahhh!

We rip out their tongues.

POOF

What do you think you're doing?

PAH

St- stop this!

Let go of me.

Tell us...

Which hell you'd prefer.

What...

Aaargh!

Stop messing with me.

WHOOSH

AAARGH

HUH?

You're so mean...

Shooting secret videos, posting them on the Internet...

YOU...

What are you doing here?

And making me work in that shop.

POOF

Ahhh...

CHING

SIGH...

He still doesn't get it.

What is this?

I just gave some stupid kids a job.

A

A

R

GHH

I'll die!

Stop this now!

My feet...

My feet...!

No.

This is reality.

This is a dream!

This is just a haunted house!

Hu!!

Why, this...

Hu!!

CHING

CHING

SPLISH

You have fallen into...

...the real hell!

SPLASH

Ugh, the girl from the lake of blood...

I will show you...

...true hell

SPLISH

Pitiful shadow lost in the darkness...

Your hurtful actions to others have tainted your immortal soul...

Do you want to see what death looks like?

HELL'S INFERNO

Detec-
tive...

Thank
you so
much.

Your broken
leg is get-
ting better.
It looks like
you'll be out
of the hospi-
tal in three
weeks.

Nakatani
is still
missing.

However...

With your testi-
mony, we managed
to rescue Nozomi-
chan, too.

...He's...

...gone to hell.

"To curse
someone is to
dig a double
grave."

Be careful of haunted houses.

The grown-up world is scary.

It isn't a place for kids like me.

In return for sending someone to hell, after death your soul will go to hell too.

HELL HOUSE INFERNO

Because you never know...

...the entrance to hell.

One of them could really be...

Chapter Twelve: The Cheat

Explanation and Nonsense

Chapter Eleven "Gloomy Job"

I haven't been to a haunted house since elementary school, but I've been really scared of them recently. Speaking of part-time jobs, I used to work the register and bake bread at a bakery in Hiroshima for a long time.

I'm the kind of person who prefers bread to rice. Because I got to bring home all the leftovers from the store, I gained so much weight.

And ones filled with Camembert cheese.

I liked donuts shaped like this.

Chapter Twelve "The Cheat"

One time in high school, I got an O on a Math test and was shocked.

At first I thought it was just a single circle, but it was a huge "zero."

In the manga, the question that Ichimokuren gives is in Spanish.

My manager thought of it for me.

I wonder what it means?

2-3

So, in this case...

Just apply the formula.

Now, as for this problem...

キュ HUH ン

Kojima.

Stay behind after class.

Eh...

Ummm...

How can you still not understand?

My middle school is a prep school for private high schools.

It's really focused on academics, so the classes are pretty hard.

Test Result Scores

Just as I thought. At the bottom...!

Wah!

They already posted the test results!

Well, good luck!

You're not so good at Math, Saori.

Ngh...

158. Saori Kojima

The class president is a total genius, in academics and athletics.

Compared to him...

That's amazing, Hayasaka!

As expected our class president is number one.

You're not going home until you've completed up to page twenty.

...I'm com-pletely clueless.

My dad...

...will be crying in heaven.

I'll never be able to be a teacher like my dad in heaven!

I'm just no good at studying.

I loved him so much. I wanted to go to the school that he taught at...I worked hard and somehow passed the entrance exam.

Huh?

Kojima-san.

SLIDE

The class president!

Wh...what's the matter, Hayasaka-kun?

I forgot some-thing...

You're still here?

Oh, yeah.

Waah!!

This is the first time I've ever spoken to the class president.

CLATTER

Huh?

If you want, I can tutor you!?

Math is my best subject.

So...

If you substitute this...

Ah.

I get it!

You picked it up quickly.

Now that you know how to do it, I'm sure you'll do fine.

You're such a good teacher!

Not really.

I have to try my best!

Right!

Yeah...

YEAH.

That's amazing, Saori!

You haven't been doing very well until now.

Test Result Scores

21. Saori Kojima

If there's still anything you don't understand, ask me!

I'm... I'm so happy!

SLAP

Kojima, you did it!

Hayasaka-kun!

Library

Do you want to use this study guide?

It's really easy to understand.

You and the class president have been really friendly lately.

I'm so jealous!

If I try even harder...

...Maybe we can get closer.

Thank you!

1. Saori Kojima
2. Masakyo Hayasaka

No way!

I got first place...

Great job, Saori.

MUTTER

MUTTER

CLENCH

Kojima-san.

Do you have a minute?

BING BONG

キーンコーンー

Congratulations on getting first place.

...And...

Kojima-san...

No...It was your own talents.

But it was all because of your help.

Thank you so MUCH!

Would you...

...go out with me?

Huh...

When I saw you working so hard...

...I really started to like you.

DUUUH

You worked so hard on your test.

Here's a reward.

Eh, really?!

It's like a dream. I'm going out with Hayasaka...

Saori.

Saori.

Saori, you've been studying so hard...

Dad would have been so proud.

Yeah.

I know!

Don't waste it!

HEH HEH ^_^

How shall I spend it?

Okay!

Saori, what happened to your glasses?!

Kojima-san.

I got contacts.

I have a class president meeting today. Will you wait for me?

Sure!

Yeah.

Kojima-san has been studying so hard.

They suit each other.

HUH

Are Kojima-san and Hayasaka-kun going out?

Kojima-san is so much prettier now.

It's like she has this aura around her. I want to be her friend.

Here, a present.

It's so cute!

It looks so good!

Thank you!

SLIDE ガラ…

Saori, hurry up!

You'll be late for gym!

Wait!

RUMMAGE ゴソゴソゴソ

RUMMAGE ゴソゴソ

It's not here...

It's gone!

BING BONG キーンコーンカーン

English Test

I'm going for it

Oh no!!

This is from 400 years ago...

Nothing you could do...

What am I going to do...?

Huh?

You lost the ring?

I'm so sorry.

I promise I'll find it...

Have you looked for it?

What am I going to do?

I can't find it...

DRIP

ZAAAH

AAAAA!!

COUGH COUGH

I couldn't find the ring. I got a cold, and I just can't concentrate...

Test Result Scores

It's a shame about the test.

Simultaneous Equations Test

jima Saori

13. Saori Kojima

But try harder on tomorrow's test!

This one was pretty hard. How about you try out this study guide?

Thank you!

Hayasaka-kun... He's so sweet...

Today's test is an English essay.

I really can do a free writing essay in English... I'll get this back.

Hey! Kojima!!

SLIDE

Yep! Perfect!

You finished, Saori?

Staff Room

The last test...

Your English free-writing essay was exactly the same as Hayasaka's!

?!

That your grades had improved so quickly.

Now I know why.

Huh... what is it...?

Come to the staff room.

Exactly the same.

I've been wonder-ing.

I thought it was suspi-cious...

You were cheating off of Hayasaka's answer sheet!

It's because...

#11

CLENCH

SLIDE

I was thinking about your school recommendation...but I don't think we can do that now.

I heard that your father was an amazing teacher...What a shame.

Acting like you're all grown up now!

How low can you get?!

No!

Please listen to me!

That's how you got to number one?

Kojima-san, you're the worst!

You copied off Hayasaka-kun's answer sheet?

RIP

If you're just going to cheat...

...you won't need your textbooks, right?

St...

Stop it!

RIP

RIP

We'll rip them all up for you.

Hahaha

Hayasaka-kun...

Isn't this... Hayasaka-kun's study guide?!

?!

Didn't he say that he'd lost his study guide...

You stole it!

THUNK

Not just cheating but *stealing*, too?!

You're SCUM!

Don't come to school anymore!

Hayasaka-kun, please.

Tell them they're wrong!

SWISH

Haya-saka...

How could you do that, Saori?

WAAAAAAH

If your father knew, he'd be devastated.

Mom...

Kojima-san, you're really pitiful.

I don't know what possessed you.

No.

It's not true!

But...no one will ever believe me.

Believe me.

The only thing I can do...

is quit school.

地獄通信

HELL CORRESPONDENCE

Masakyo Hayasaka__

You called for me.

Enma-san...?!

Take this.

If you untie the thread then the contract will be complete.

Your enemy will be sent straight to hell.

I'm scared...

What am I going to do...? I'm scared to go to school.

Do you still want revenge?

However, to curse someone is to dig a double grave.

In exchange for your revenge, after death, your soul, too, will go to hell...

Morning, Hayasaka-kun.

But...I at least have to tell the teacher...

Oh... this.

What's that?

Huh...

My ringz!

I was kind and helped her out understanding her work.

Why is he...

CHING

HEH

Isn't that your girlfriend's?

I don't have one...

I didn't think she was going to be number one in the class.

I got close to her and tried to get in her way.

She didn't notice that I swapped the answer sheets.

It's a shame she's a real idiot.

THUD

It was all just to lower my grades...?!

He said he liked me.

Your grudge...

...has been heard.

Hayasaka-kun.

You failed the last test.

Come now for the make-up test.

Failed?!

How can...

ARGH

Uwaaa

ARGH

PLOP

10 4 CLAP

Correct!

UMMM...

H_2SO_4, right?!

11° 4 CLAP

11° 4 CLAP

Correct!

11° 4 CLAP

Argh!

?!

Next.

UMMM... Tôshôdai-ji!

The temple with a connection to Ganjin is?

¡Es mejor!

A mi me gusta.

Wha...

What language is this?

You cheated to get that answer?

That was your only chance.

Last question. Please translate.

That was correct?!

Why...

U

Why...

You were cheating, weren't you?

?!

UWAAH

ARGH

He...HELP ME...

You made a mistake.

We don't like idiots.

Stop joking...

What kind of test is this?!

GRIP

!!!

I'm at the top of my grade!

I get perfect scores all the time!

It was that pathetic pride of yours...

...that made you jealous of your hard-working girlfriend.

Pitiful shadow lost in the darkness...

Your hurtful actions to others...

...have tainted your immortal soul...

Do you want to see what death looks like?

SNAP

This grudge...

...has sent you to hell...

SPLASH

HAAA

MUTTER

Test Result Scores

MUTTER

Kojima-san is on top again.

Saori Kojima

Ah...they were all lies about her cheating off of Hayasaka-kun's paper.

But...

She's so smart. There were those rumors that she cheated...

Staff Room

With these grades you can get into any high school.

Hayasaka-kun is still Missing?

"Your soul, after death, will go to hell..."

I want to be...

...a teacher, like my dad.

Even so, I'm going to work so hard.

Dad...

Watch over me from heaven.

Go For It, Ai-chan 2!

Overslept Face

Late Girl, Again

Now, Miss!!

Finish it with, "Do you want to see what death..."

Bad guy.

I think that's enough.

As usual, tonight I'M hard at work!!!

...die.

Do you want to...

Good evening, this is Ai Enma.

SNORE

Ah... I can't get up.

Good morning... I'M really bad in the mornings.

What the heck are you doing?!!!

DASH

Bad guy.

Ah! It's running away!!

ACK

Bad guy.

There's no way I can start working in the mornings...

This is to teach you a lesson!!

Continued on page 121

Chapter Thirteen: Love Betrayed

Chapter Thirteen "Love Betrayed"

I had a lot of fun drawing this because it was about a senior soccer player and a manager—a very typical set-up for a girl's comic, which I haven't done for a while.

Right when I was drawing this, the World Cup had just ended and the National High School Baseball Championship was just beginning.

I wrote the first two volumes without watching much sports, but I kind of half-watch the high school baseball tournament every year.

Even though I live in Tokyo now, I still have to cheer for Hiroshima.

Bonus Chapter

In the anime, there are two important characters, a father and daughter, Shibata.

As for Hajime-san (a man), I couldn't draw him in because it would have been hard to move the story along in a *Nakayoshi* fashion. After all, they're deeply involved with Ai-chan's past. In writing this back story, I went through much deliberation and asked to meet with my supervisors a lot. Also Aniplex directed me through a lot of the little details that they couldn't fit into the anime. I'm really thankful. I added a little to the scene where Ai is getting buried.

DUMPH

WAAAH

Ogata-senpai is doing great today again!

WHISPER ヒソヒソ

I'll do this.

This school is famous for soccer.

As managers, we're busy, too.

Thanks for the hard work, Kana-chan!

Yukari, you can't do it all yourself!

It's all right!

Anyway, Ogata-senpai will be waiting!

Sure.

SNEAK OFF こそこそ

EH えっ

Right, training's over, so all the people watching can go home now!

HUFF はぁ

HUFF はぁ

きょろきょろ

GLANCE

GLANCE

GRIP

キュ

Kana.

So Ogata-senpai and I have been *secretly* dating.

My school has really strict rules, too. Dating between club members is strictly prohibited.

Being with him is like a dream.

Ogata-senpai is so wonderful. He's so talented that he's only in his second year and he's already been scouted.

The only person who knows is my best friend Yukari. She helps us out a lot.

I chose them to match Yukari's!

Oh

Your sneakers are so cute.

DUMPH

?

Have you kissed yet?

We've only been going out a month!

Did you manage to lose the followers?

So, yesterday...

Yeah! Thanks to you!

You went to a café near the station?

HEAD IT!

DONK

An eye...

Ick...

Let's not talk about it.

I'M washing these!

Eh

Shouldn't you be kissing soon?

OW!

There's SOME-thing in with the laundry...

Eh...

Kanaz!

A razor...z!

I just tripped...

Kana-chan.

What happened to your handz!

DASH だっ

Who is that girl?

Ye...yeah.

Are you okay?

Get off him! Ugly woman!

That's not...fair...

Could those girls...

...have put the razor there?

!!

You can't work with your hand like that.

Why don't you go home now?

Okay...

Z!

The big game is coming up. Yukari is going to have so much work to do.

CLATTER

Yeah...

They were the ones I got with you.

Someone messed up your sneakers?!

We can always get new ones. You need to be careful.

Thank you.

I'm so glad I have you, Yukari.

Pass!
Pass!

It's my turn to make the tea.

CLICK
4 "

Someone must really hate me.

DUMPH

SLIP
ﾐﾘｰ...

If I look all depressed, then Ogata-senpai will find out.

I can't!

AAAAHHHH

Aaah...

ハァ ハァ

ハァ STEAM

CRASH

It's not such a bad burn.

But this is unforgiv-able!

Nurse

No one at the soccer club saw anyone suspicious.

I went to my first signing on 27th August 2006. It was a *Nakayoshi* event.

This is what my signature looks like. It's not much of a signature.

this

Thank you so much to all those people who turned up in the hot weather.

I'm going to announce the names of those going to the county sports meet.

Finally, the Meet!

Adachi

Ogata

Sakai

That's it.

Masu-moto

Ueda

I'm so happy for Ogata-senpai.

Yeah!

CLENCH

CLICK

This...

It's Ogata-senpai's uniform.

Aaah!

THUD

!!

Ow!

What was that?!

TWEET

Why do they hate Ogata-senpai too?!

That's all for today!

This is so Mean!

Yeah.

What's up?

Ah...

This...

SHUFFLE

Ogata-senpai.

He has such high expectations.

I can't bring him down.

Oh... no.

It's nothing.

Sorry, what was it?

Ogata! The coach wants you.

Okay.

But, why would someone...

I've sewn it up for now.

It must have gotten ripped when it was in the laundry.

Then, who could it be?

A fan wouldn't bully Ogata-senpai...

I know who's bullying you!

!!

RING

Incoming Yukari

RING

Hello, Kana!

Hello?

He called me from the park on Second Street.

Let's go get him!

Huh?

Yukari...?

Town Park

RUSTLE

Yamane-senpai...?!

!!

You...

Yukari?

I've always hated Ogata.

Wh...

Why, you...

No matter how much I tried I've always been average.

The scout passed me by too...

You're going out with Ogata, aren't you?

He even has a girlfriend in the club!

NO...!

Don't think badly of me.

No...

Let go of me!

GRAB

FLASH カシャッ

Yukari...

Kana!

What am I going to do?

He did this to Ogata-senpai.

I'm sorry I'm late.

No... no...

Did he do anything to you?!

You're right...

I can't tell the coach or Ogata-senpai.

You can't tell anyone! If the club members find out, it'll endanger the big game.

You look like you have something on your mind.

Has something happened?

No...

Kana.

You haven't been happy.

What am I going to do?

...Ogata-senpai.

Shall we stop meeting outside of the club for a while?

Huh...

Why...

.....

Kana!

The coach wants to see you!

Maybe something will happen again if I'M with him.

The big game is coming up.

I think you should focus on training.

Staff

Yesterday someone sent me these pictures.

That... is when...?!

I thought you knew that dating was prohibited?

That...

You have it wrong!

はっ HAH

"It'll endanger the big game..."

Ngh.

ギュッ CLENCH

Students who have this problem...

...don't make good managers.

I want you to quit.

Kana...

This photo was sent to me.

Ogata-senpai too!

Not, anymore...

Kana?!

I...I can't be with Ogata-senpai anymore...

Thank you for everything.

Goodbye...

Kana...

Is it true?

You broke up with Ogata-senpai?

Kana...

It's not fair.

You didn't do anything wrong.

HUG

Hey...

Have you heard of Hell Correspondence?

Yamane...

Why don't you use it?

...I can't forgive him.

I can't forgive him...

If you write in the name of someone you hate...

地獄通信

A site that you can access only at midnight. "Hell Correspondence."

HELL CORRESPONDENCE

Yamane__

RING

to

Incoming Call

Ogata-senpai

RING

BEEP

to

Hello?

.....

It's Ogata-senpai...

HUH

Take this.

However, to curse someone is to dig a double grave.

If you untie the thread, then the contract will be complete...

Your enemy will be sent straight to hell.

In return for taking revenge you have to pay...

Yukari, Yukari!

There's a meeting in the club room.

Ah, um...

Soccer Club

CLATTER

?!

I want you to make her quit as manager.

Harass Kana.

That's pretty bad.

If you don't want everyone to find out, then you better listen to what I say.

Yamane-senpai...

You were the one who bullied Ogata-senpai?

So if Kana quits, that's going to be a shock for Ogata-senpai, isn't it?

Those two are dating.

STOP IT!

Wha...

What is that?

DASH

That's low.

Ugh...

You can't be a manager.

HUFF

HUFF

BANG

Why...?!

When... was that taken...?!

HUFF

HUFF

Kana?!

That's not my cell phone!

カシャ FLASH

Hey....

What is that?!

カシャ FLASH

?!

I knew it!

It was you all along!

"...someone who knows about our relationship."

"Someone sent me that photo..."

!!

Ogata-senpai told me.

...is Yukari?!

The only one who knows...

Yamane-senpai only ripped the uniform.

If you'd sent Yamane to hell, then my plan would have worked.

But you blamed it all on him.

That's right!

The razor and the window, that was all me!

We were best friends!?

Why?!

Best Friends?

I hated you so MUCH!

You're so annoying! Even buying the same sneakers as me without asking!

And I've always liked Ogata-senpai too!

SU

Your hurtful actions to others...

...have tainted your immortal soul...

Pitiful shadow lost in the darkness...

WHOOSH

ヒュッ

THUNK

Aaah-!

Do you want to see...

...what death looks like?

AAAAHHHH

ゴロ ROLL

Wha... what...?

A ball...?

PLUNK

Ahh!

Congrat-ulations

Soccer Club Victorious at Sports Meet

This is great! ♡

Ah...

But...it's scary.

This grudge...

Has sent you to hell...

"To curse someone is to dig a double grave."

I heard that she's still Missing.

The manager, Yukari...

"In return for taking revenge, after death, your soul will go to hell too."

"Do you still want revenge?"

I still do.

Kana!

Reason

Low blood pressure...

Could it be that you can't get out of bed in the morning because of low blood pres-sure?

I won't be late!

If I conquer this low blood pressure, then...

HMMM...

Shouldn't take too many vitamins...

A low-salt diet and anemia.

The causes of low blood pressure are...

ZZZZ

She's ridicu-lous!

She was searching the web all night...

So she can't get up.

Continued on page 168

Safe?

I overslept again.

Ahh!

Sensei

Morning!

Oh, Ai...

SLIDE

BONG

Pajamas

Empty Handed

BING

PHEW

No you didn't! You were out!

In so many ways.

Just Made it. Safe! ♥

Bonus Chapter: Tacking Stitches

This time, I included some jokes and lighthearted short strips I created for the DVD. Behind that there's a lighthearted short story that I drew. Because the next pages are Ai-chan's story, which is really sad, I thought it'd be nice to lighten things up a little.

BIG THANKS

Aniplex
Osano-sama, Maruyama-sama, Oriuchi-sama
Everyone involved
Everyone who bought this

地獄通信
HELL CORRESPONDENCE

That's not fair!

You said we'd be together forever.

I believed you...

Sentarou Shibata

You called for me?

You're...

Ai Enma, you're in my class...?

DADUM

If you untie the thread, then the contract will be complete.

Your enemy will be sent straight to hell.

Take this.

Send Sentarou to hell...

It was all Sentarou's fault!

He said we'd be together forever...

He said that he'd protect me...

Yeah...

He must be busy with his club activities.

Rie...

No reply from Sentarou still?

No new messages.

Since we've been in different classes...

He hasn't contacted me.

You've been going out since the first year of middle school...You're famous for being the beautiful couple.

You're still pretty worried, aren't you?

AHAHA あはは

Ah...

I wonder if he went to his club today too.

Sen...

Sentarou-kun

Who is that girl?!

How could he?!

Did he lie to me about being busy with the club? Has he been hanging out with her?!

...This is...

Your decision.

I can't forgive him for cheating on me.

So, I...

She's... gone again.

Oh, Miss?

Since she got that e-Mail she's been acting weird.

Sentarou

It must be...because of that name.

I was so panicked when I accessed the site.

What if there was some reason for it?

Maybe he isn't cheating...

But I still haven't worked out for sure... what I should do.

SLIP ゴ"ン……

Sending him to hell...that's going a little far.

I...

...want to return this after all.

Huh?

Pretty arrogant.

Humans exist to hate others.

The Miss has a destiny that she can't escape from him, no matter how fast she runs.

Who... are these people?!

They're scary...

For four hundred years the Miss has lived by her hate.

Forget your own grudges... and shut your heart.

To be so full of hate is not easy.

Huh...

It is such a very long time ago now...

You ghost!

Get out of our village!

OW!

THUD

RUSTLE

NO...

Don't bully Ai!

Stop it...

SHUT UP!

She just made a dead butterfly come back to life...

She's always being weird?!

Sentarou!

WHACK

OOOOW

Sentarou...

Are you all right?

Ouch...

I know.

But I'm not a spirit.

The butterfly was just alive.

I'm sorry.

It's all my fault...

ガチャ

Ai can't possibly be a spirit.

You're my favorite cousin.

Every seventh year we need to make an offering of seven...

For the village's good harvest...we have to offer up to the mountain god a girl of exactly seven.

Sentarou...

Ai is seven.

She will become the bride of the mountain god to protect the village.

!!

No...

Please wait!

Get ready now...

SLAM

Why...

Why, Ai...

"Sentarou...

...will you listen to our request?"

It's for the village.

JINGLE

A girl for the mountain god...

There is no other way...

JINGLE

When locked in the shrine, she can never come out.

No...

Quickly, now!

Ai.

Enter the shrine.

...Some-body...

It's so cold!

I'm so hungry...

HHHAAA

SLAM

No

CREEK

No...

Stop it!

Close the door!

RUSTLE

HUH

CREEK

Sen-tarou...

Your parents asked me.

To take you from this shrine.

Ai...

Are you all right?!

GRAB

Ai!

Sen-
tarou...

Am I...a
sacrifice?

It's all
right...

It's going
to be all
right.

The mountain god...

Why aren't you helping us?

Why...

The rice is still dry.

Long rain, then bright sun...

However... if we can't harvest rice, we will die.

You eat before me.

Your body is weak.

It's all right, eat.

Sentarou.

Have some food.

ﾅﾆｯ

NGH

Hey, Sen-tarou...

Is the village all right?

You mustn't worry about anything.

Ai...

And...if the villagers find out what you did then...

No, it's no good...

WAAH!

Mountain god, please help us!

Why have you done this to us for six years?

WAAH!

WAAH!

My child won't make it through the winter...

Sen-tarou...

Thank you.

Ai.

I brought you a change of clothes.

But, maybe it would be all right.

On such a bright day...

Ai...

Let's leave this village together.

I'll protect you...

I'll...

But...

We can't live like this forever!

Sentarou...

RUSTLE

It's because of you...

What are you doing?

You brought starvation on our village!

You will pay for this!

Sentarou...

THU

WHACK

Ai!

Run!

WHAM

She's getting away.

Aaah

Bring her parents too!

Help Me, Sentarou!

NO

Ai...

We have to do the ritual again!

AAAA

THUNK

Ai!

Ai!

Sentarou?

Sentarou...

ぽた

DRIP

Ah...

DUMPH

THUD

THUD

Bury her alive!

Save Me!

No...

Sentarou...

Moun-tain god

Here is the girl who broke our laws...

So please, save our village...

Mountain god

Sentarou.

You too!

?!

Quick fill it up.

Aaah

SWOOSH

If you don't...

...then the Mountain god's rage will not subside!

Sen-
tarou...

Wait,
Sen-
tarou!

DASH

THUNK

I'll protect you.

I'm sorry...

I'm so sorry!

I hate you... All of you...

AAARGH

The village...

Now the village will be safe...

Hey, what...

WHOOOSH

Even if I die, my hate will live on

In punishment, she got an even heavier sentence than damnation.

That's...

For four hundred years, Miss has had to send people to hell herself...

to wash away her own crimes.

...Her spirit...

...burned the village.

You hate Sentarou too, right?

TAP

ｽｯ!!

TIGHT

GASP

I...

...will take him to hell for you.

HAH

What?!

Why can't I...

No, Miss!

HHGRAAA

Look carefully.

This is the man who betrayed you.

He's going to hell.

He asked for it...

...with his betrayal.

Sentarou will never come back to you.

Just like him.

TIGHT

So send him to hell.

Then on death your soul will fall down too.

Your grudge...

...will bring you only pain! You would be better dead!

TIGHT

Stop it!

But I...

I still like him...

I know...

But...

CLENCH

The pain of betrayal...

You want to take revenge, don't you?

You too, have faith in them, right?

Sentarou-san...

I...

I want to have faith in the nice memories with Sentarou...

We've had so many fights, but I still have so many happy memories with Sentarou.

I'M going to...

...put my faith in Sentarou one more time.

I think Sentarou-san really liked you too.

I'M sorry.

I'M giving this back.

POOF

Yes.

Miss.

Let's go.

Yes...

...Miss...

Have you forgiven Sentarou?

...I don't know...

Miss, did you know...

...that Sentarou built a temple to honor you...

7

POOF

I'm sorry, Rie.

I'm sorry.

I'm sorry...

But, not again... I'm never going to give you a reason to be insecure again.

That girl...was the club manager.

We became really close when we were discussing problems...

Sentarou...

...But I understand her a little.

If she was going to just give it back, then she didn't need to call her in the first place.

...I don't know.

"Hell Correspondence..."

...isn't something you should access lightly.

Right.

Miss?

Right.

Your enemy will be sent straight to hell.

If you untie the thread, then the contract will be complete...

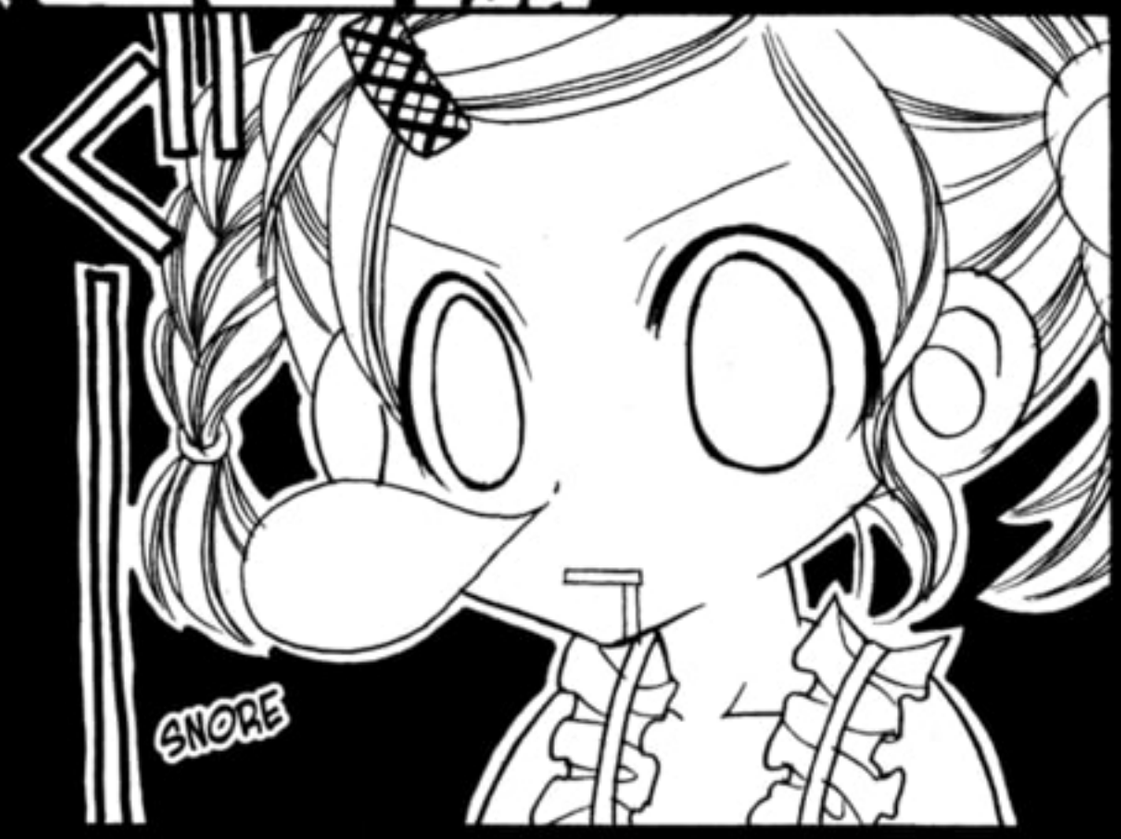
...your decision.

It is now...

To be continued in volume 4!

Hell Girl Extra Special Short Stories

Tsugumi-chan



Summer

Vitamins

PEEK
フッ

Looks like Miss has got bad skin...

RAGE
ﾄﾞﾄﾞﾄﾞ

My skin is still dry...

She has to at least eat well...

She's always working in the middle of the night...

It's probably because her life-style is so erratic.

SHOCK
ビクッ

Thighbone

Miss, here!

Calcium ♥

Go buy me some vitamins from the conve-nience store...

Left Eye

Miss, here's some DHA!

It's probably good for your mind and skin.

Car

I wonder where she went.

I'M ready...

Where's the Miss?

Miss! Quickly,

I went already.

スラッ
SLIDE

It's quicker to take a taxi...

Instead of taking Wanyuu-dou...

Miss...!

スタスタ
PITTER PITTER

I'M starving.

To be continued

Extra: Sakura Uta

HUH

Ah

Great!

It was alive.

You know.

The butterfly...

ZAH

Oh? Ai.

Sentarou!

Where are you going?

It's so pretty...

Let's go and see them next year again.

And the next year, and the next year, and the next year.

Forever.

Oh no...

The blossoms are falling.

Ai.

SWOOSH

Ah...

yes.

We promised.

Miss...

Miss!

...Huh...

You fell asleep here again...

A flower blossom?

That's odd. At this time...

Oh well.

You like blossoms.

We should all go and see them in the spring...

...Miss.

Are you crying?

THE END

About the Creator

Miyuki Eto

Birth date: July 3
Astrological sign: Cancer
Blood type: A

Born in Hiroshima prefecture, Miyuki Eto made her manga debut in *Nakayoshi* magazine's "Summer Vacationland" special issue with the story "Lila's Flower Language." That story won her the 25th Annual *Nakayoshi* New Manga Artist Award. To date, *Hell Girl* may be her best-known work. Her hobby is taking care of her cats!

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

School recommendation, page 61
In Japan's highly competitive school system, a good reference from your previous school is necessary to ensure that you get into the prestigious school of your choice—even at the high school level!

Ganjin and Tôshôdai-ji, page 73
Tôshôdai-ji is a Buddhist temple in Nara and is now a designated UNESCO World Heritage Sight. It was founded in A.D. 759 by a blind Chinese monk called Ganjin, who came to Japan to help propagate Buddhism. A very difficult question to answer!

Pile of stones, page 131
Ai is shown piling stones up on this page. In Japanese Shinto tradition it is said that the souls of children who die before their parents can't cross the River Styx into the afterlife. Instead, they are condemned to pile stones at the edge of the river with demons constantly knocking them down. Thus, often you can see small piles of stones at Shinto shrines from parents hoping to shorten the time their deceased children will have to suffer in the underworld.

***Sakura Uta*, page 170**
Sakura Uta literally means "Blossom Song." It is also the title of a song from the *Hell Girl* anime soundtrack. *Sakura* are very popular flowers in Japan, and flower-viewing festivals (*hanami*) are based on traditions dating back to the third century.

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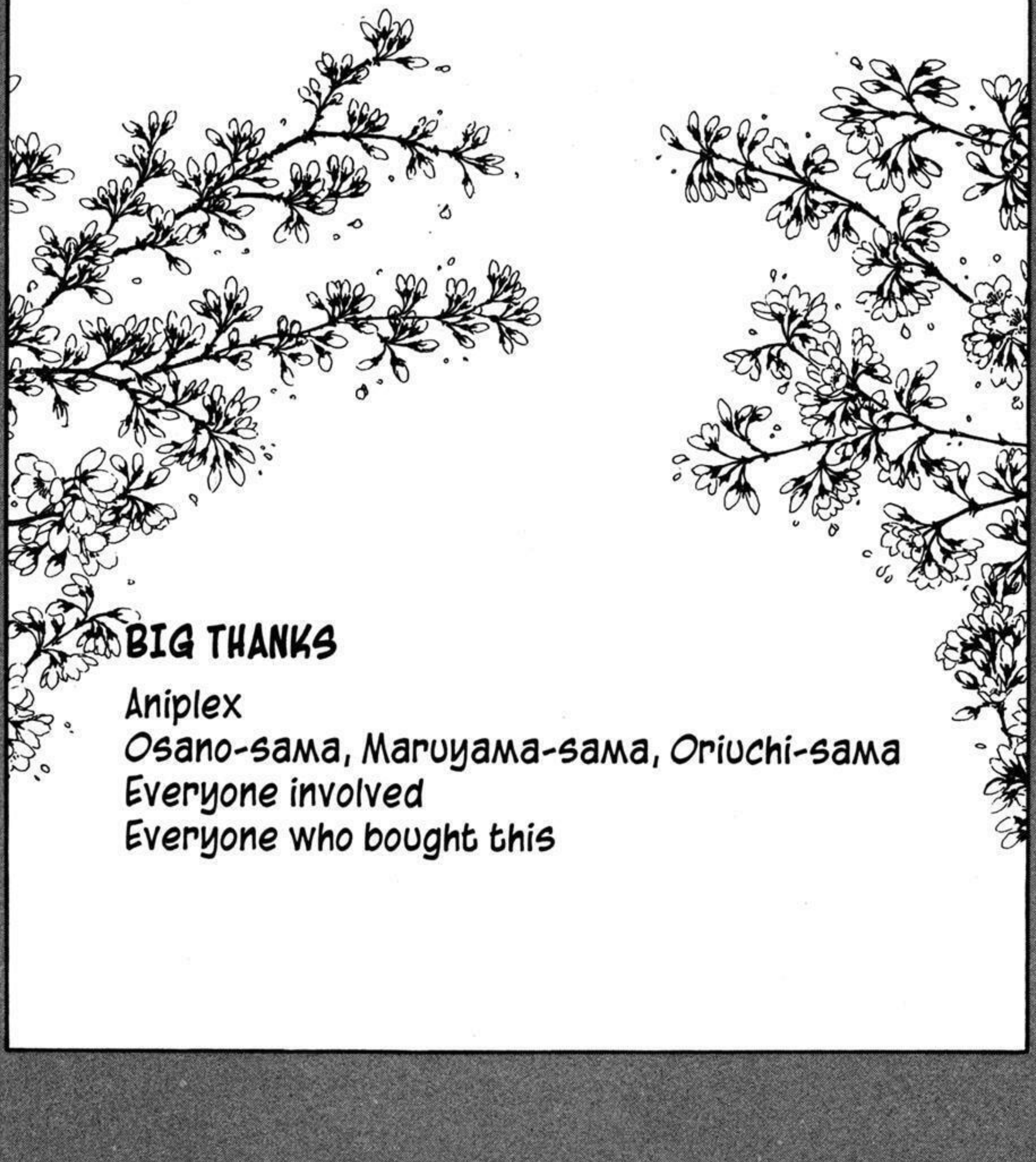

BIG THANKS

Aniplex
Osano-sama, Maruyama-sama, Oriuchi-sama
Everyone involved
Everyone who bought this

地獄通信
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I believed you...

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You're...

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You've been going out since the first year of Middle School...You're famous for being the beautiful couple.

You're still pretty worried, aren't you?

AHAHA あはは

Ah...

I wonder if he went to his club today too.

Sen...

Sentarou-kun

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Get out of our village!

OW!

HIT

RUSTLE

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Stop it...

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She's always being weird?!

Sentarou!

WHACK

OOOOW

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Ouch...

I know.

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I'm sorry.

It's all my fault...

ギュッ

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You're my favorite cousin.

Every seventh year we need to make an offering of seven...

For the village's good harvest...we have to offer up to the mountain god a girl of exactly seven.

Sentarou...

No...

Please wait!

Get ready now...

SLAM

Why...

Why, Ai...

!!

Ai is seven.

She will become the bride of the mountain god to protect the village.

"Sentarou...

...will you listen to our request?"

It's for the village.

JINGLE

A girl for the mountain god...

There is no other way...

JINGLE

When locked in the shrine, she can never come out.

No...

Quickly, now!

Ai.

Enter the shrine.

...Some-body...

It's so cold!

I'm so hungry...

HHHAAA

SLAM

No

CREEK

No...

Stop it!

Close the door!

RUSTLE

HUH

CREEK

Sen-tarou...

Your parents asked me.

To take you from this shrine.

Ai...

Are you all right?!

GRAB

Ai!

Sen-
tarou...

Am I...a
sacrifice?

It's all
right...

It's going
to be all
right.

The Mountain god...

Why aren't you helping us?

Why...

The rice is still dry.

Long rain, then bright sun...

However... if we can't harvest rice, we will die.

You eat before me.

Your body is weak.

It's all right, eat.

Sentarou.

Have some food.

ﾅｷﾞｭｯ

NGH

Hey, Sen-tarou...

Is the village all right?

You mustn't worry about anything.

Ai...

And...if the villagers find out what you did then...

No, it's no good...

WAAH!

Mountain god, please help us!

Why have you done this to us for six years?

WAAH!

My child won't make it through the winter...

Sen-tarou...

Thank you.

Ai.

I brought you a change of clothes.

Ai...

Let's leave this village together.

But, maybe it would be all right.

On such a bright day...

I'll protect you...

I'll...

But...

We can't live like this forever!

Sentarou...

RUSTLE

It's because of you...

What are you doing?

You brought starvation on our village!

You will pay for this!

Sentarou...

WHACK

Ai!

Run!

WHAM

She's getting away.

Aaah

Bring her parents too!

Help Me, Sentarou!

NO

Ai...

We have to do the ritual again!

AAAA

THUNK

Ai!

Ai!

Sentarou?

Sentarou...

Ah...

DUMPH

THUD

THUD

Bury her alive!

No...

Sentarou...

Moun-tain god

Here is the girl who broke our laws...

So please, save our village...

Save Me!

Mountain god

Sentarou.

You too!

?!

Quick fill it up.

...then the mountain god's rage will not subside!

If you don't...

Aaah

SWOOSH

Sen-
tarou...

DASH

Wait,
Sen-
tarou!

THUNK

4

I'll protect you.

I'm sorry...

I'm so sorry!

I hate you... All of you...

AAARGH

The village...

Now the village will be safe...

Hey, what...

WHOOOSH

Even if I die, my hate will live on

In punishment, she got an even heavier sentence than damnation.

...Her spirit...

That's...

For four hundred years, Miss has had to send people to hell herself...

to wash away her own crimes.

...burned the village.

You hate Sentarou too, right?

TAP

ｽｯ...

TIGHT

I...

...will take him to hell for you.

GASP

Hah

What?!

Why can't I...

No, Miss!

GRAAAHH

Look carefully.

This is the man who betrayed you.

He's going to hell.

He asked for it...

...with his betrayal.

TIGHT

Sentarou will never come back to you.

Just like him.

So send him to hell.

Then on death your soul will fall down too.

Your grudge...

...will bring you only pain! You would be better dead!

TIGHT

Stop it!

But I...

I still like him...

I know...

But...

#!
ㅎ
CLENCH

You want to take revenge, don't you?

The pain of betrayal...

You too, have faith in them, right?

Sentarou-san...

I...

I want to have faith in the nice memories with Sentarou...

We've had so many fights, but I still have so many happy memories with Sentarou.

I'M going to...

...put my faith in Sentarou one more time.

I think Sentarou-san really liked you too.

I'M sorry.

I'M giving this back.

POOF

Let's go.

Yes...

Yes.

Miss.

...Miss...

Have you forgiven Sentarou?

...I don't know...

Miss, did you know...

...that Sentarou built a temple to honor you...

7

POOF

I'M sorry, Rie.

I'm sorry.

I'm sorry...

But, not again... I'm never going to give you a reason to be insecure again.

That girl...was the club manager.

We became really close when we were discussing problems...

Sentarou...

...But I understand her a little.

If she was going to just give it back, then she didn't need to call her in the first place.

...I don't know.

"Hell Correspondence..."

...isn't something you should access lightly.

Right.

Miss?

Right.

Your enemy will be sent straight to hell.

If you untie the thread, then the contract will be complete...

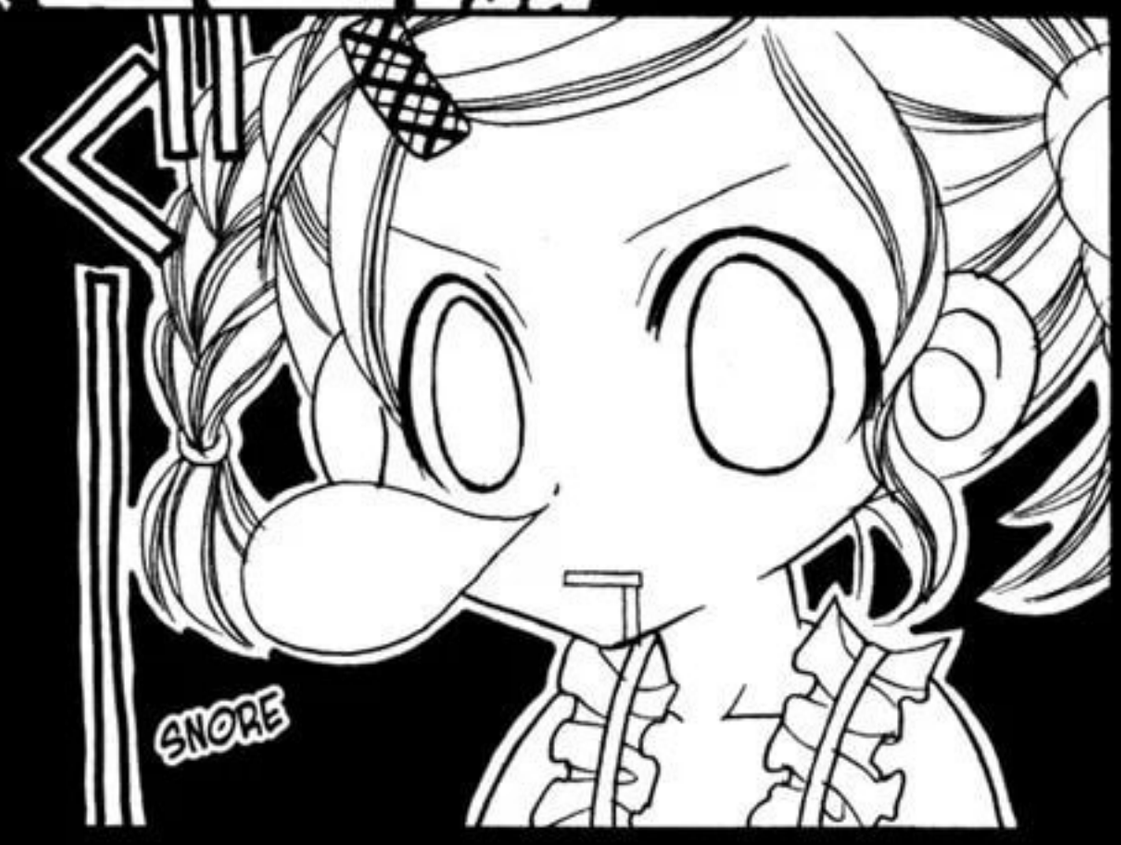
...your decision.

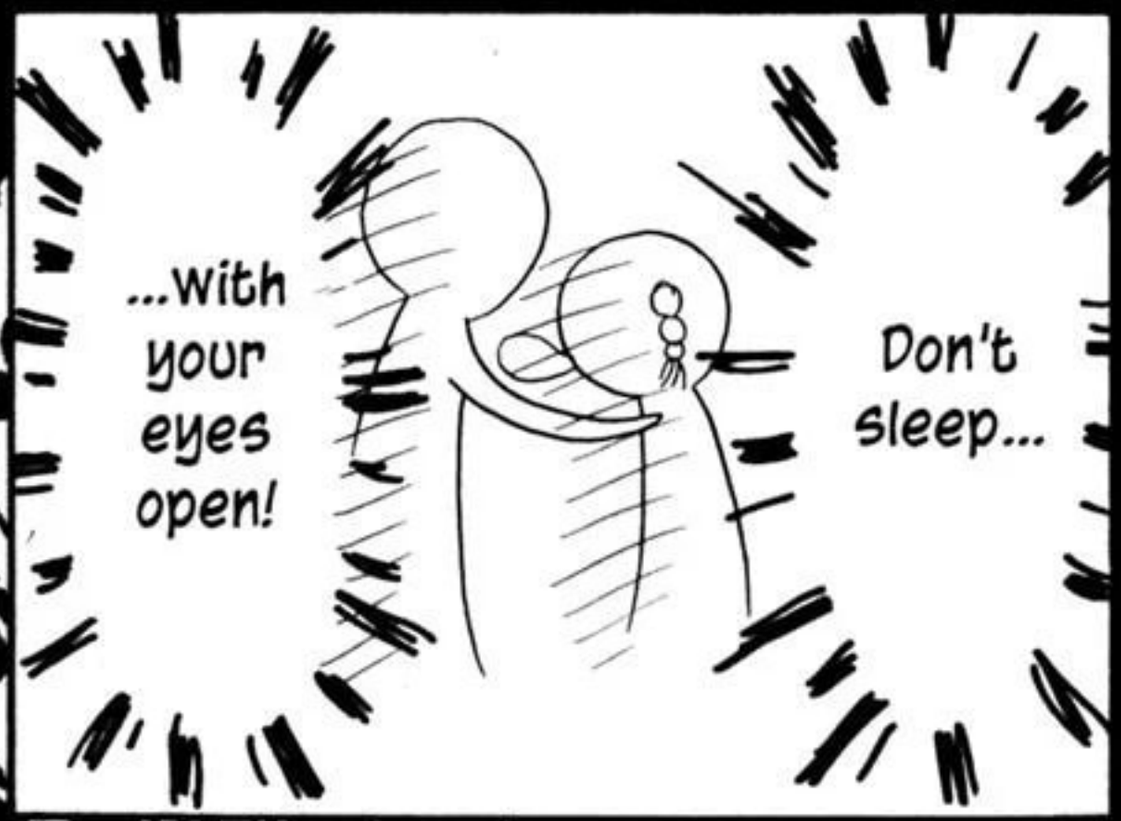
It is now...

To be continued in volume 4!

Hell Girl Extra Special Short Strips

Tsugumi-chan





Summer

Vitamins

PEEK!
Looks like Miss has got bad skin...
RAGE
My skin is still dry...

She has to at least eat well...
She's always working in the middle of the night...
It's probably because her life-style is so erratic.

SHOCK!
Thighbone
Miss, here!
Calcium ♥

Go buy me some vitamins from the conve-nience store...
Left Eye
Miss, here's some DHA!
It's probably good for your mind and skin.

Car

I wonder where she went.
I'm ready...
Where's the Miss?

Miss! Quickly,
SLIDE
I went already.

It's quicker to take a taxi...
Instead of taking Wanyuu-dou...

Miss...!
PITTER PITTER
I'm starving.

To be continued

Extra: Sakura Uta

ひく

HUH

Ah

Great!

It was alive.

You know.

The butterfly...

ZAH

Oh? Ai.

Sentarou!

Where are you going?

It's so pretty...

Let's go and see them next year again.

And the next year, and the next year.

Forever.

Oh no...

The blossoms are falling.

Ai.

SWOOSH

Ah...

yes.

We promised.

Miss...

Miss!

You fell asleep here again...

...Huh...

That's odd. At this time...

A flower blossom?

Oh well.

You like blossoms.

We should all go and see them in the spring...

...Miss.

Are you crying?

THE END

About the Creator

Miyuki Eto

Birth date: July 3
Astrological sign: Cancer
Blood type: A

Born in Hiroshima prefecture, Miyuki Eto made her manga debut in *Nakayoshi* magazine's "Summer Vacationland" special issue with the story "Lila's Flower Language." That story won her the 25th Annual *Nakayoshi* New Manga Artist Award. To date, *Hell Girl* may be her best-known work. Her hobby is taking care of her cats!

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

School recommendation, page 61
In Japan's highly competitive school system, a good reference from your previous school is necessary to ensure that you get into the prestigious school of your choice—even at the high school level!

Ganjin and Tôshôdai-ji, page 73
Tôshôdai-ji is a Buddhist temple in Nara and is now a designated UNESCO World Heritage Sight. It was founded in A.D. 759 by a blind Chinese monk called Ganjin, who came to Japan to help propagate Buddhism. A very difficult question to answer!

Pile of stones, page 131
Ai is shown piling stones up on this page. In Japanese Shinto tradition it is said that the souls of children who die before their parents can't cross the River Styx into the afterlife. Instead, they are condemned to pile stones at the edge of the river with demons constantly knocking them down. Thus, often you can see small piles of stones at Shinto shrines from parents hoping to shorten the time their deceased children will have to suffer in the underworld.

***Sakura Uta*, page 170**
Sakura Uta literally means "Blossom Song." It is also the title of a song from the *Hell Girl* anime soundtrack. *Sakura* are very popular flowers in Japan, and flower-viewing festivals (*hanami*) are based on traditions dating back to the third century.